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ARAVAIPA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Richard Choate, President
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ARIZONA CORP. COMM
 400 W CONGRESS STE 218 TUCSON AZ 85707

October 17, 2015

Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Arizona Corporation Commission
 1200 West Washington St
 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket Number L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

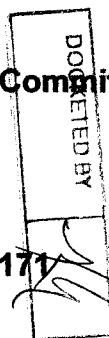
Dear Commissioners:

The Aravaipa Property Owners Association (APOA), organized in 1973, consists of about 60 landowners on the west side of Aravaipa Canyon whose properties lie along Aravaipa Creek, the major tributary of the San Pedro River. As fellow residents of the San Pedro River watershed, we share the concern of our neighbors about the potential location of the SunZia Transmission Line along the west side of the San Pedro River Valley.

We (APOA) are writing you to express our **strong and unanimous opposition** to the granting of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the SunZia Transmission Project.

The San Pedro River is the last undammed river in the desert southwest and its rare riparian habitat supports a crucial migratory bird route and a multitude of wildlife species. This project would open an entirely new corridor in the valley, fragmenting wildlife linkages, and inviting further development. The relatively intact ecosystem in the valley has attracted important conservation investments in order to mitigate development elsewhere. This project would not only devalue those investments but it would make the valley less valuable for future mitigation investment. Future projects requiring mitigation would find it more difficult, if not impossible, to locate the necessary properties required for approval without an intact San Pedro Valley.

There is no justification for the potential environmental damage this project would inflict on the San Pedro River Valley. Arizona's capacity to develop its own renewable energy exceeds our need by several orders of magnitude. Importing it from New Mexico is not only unnecessary, but harmful to in-state renewable



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energy development for our own use and even for export. Nor do we need to harm our environment in order to transmit energy from New Mexico to California. That state is also poised to meet its own renewable energy needs.

Finally, the SunZia Transmission Project competes with a far better and much preferred alternative, the Southline Transmission Project, which should be coming up for your consideration in the near future.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to reject the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the SunZia Transmission Project.

Sincerely,

Richard Choate
President, Aravaipa Property Owners Association (APOA)

